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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/UNP AND EUR/WE

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TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECIN](#) [PREL](#) [SP](#) [UNGA](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN ON UNGA DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

REF: A. SECSTATE 160880

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 162146

[1](#)1. DCM passed reftel points September 2 to MFA Secretary of State for International Assistance Leire Pajin, outlining U.S. concerns about the UNGA High Level Event (HLE) Outcome Document and the six-country (including Spain) draft "Declaration on Innovative Sources of Financing for Development." Manuel Alhama, a member of Pajin's immediate staff, briefed ESTHOFF September 8 on Spain's reaction to our points.

[1](#)2. Alhama said Spain's overarching development-related goal at the UNGA was to foster greater development assistance flows from rich countries to poor ones. Spain hopes both the HLE Outcome Document and the Declaration help advance this policy goal. Spain remains flexible regarding altering the text of the HLE Outcome Document as long as such changes do not prejudice the GOS' policy goals.

[1](#)3. Regarding specific aspects of the Outcome Document and Declaration, Spain:

- strongly supports the call (including targets and timetables) for all developed countries to reach an Official Development Assistance (ODA) level of 0.7 percent of GNP by 2015;

- opposes any tax on airline tickets to help finance ODA;

- remains undecided about the UK's proposed International Finance Facility (IFF), but believes the concept deserves further study; and,

- believes further action is required to help reduce remittance transaction costs.

[1](#)4. COMMENT: Although U.S. and Spanish views on ODA-related issues clearly do not coincide, we would note that Spain has generally been a supporter of U.S. positions on many UN reform issues, and has been a particularly strong ally in defeating the G-4 framework resolution and supporting the U.S. proposals for a UN Human Rights Council and the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

AGUIRRE